

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1        1. An article attachment system for a vehicle having one or more  
2 receiving members, comprising:
  - 3                a base having an attachment device adapted to selectively  
4 couple the base to the receiving member and to selectively uncouple the base  
5 from the receiving member.
  - 6                the base adapted to interchangeably receive an article; and  
7                the base having a retention device adapted to selectively retain  
8 the article and to selectively release the article.
- 1        2. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the base is  
2 attachable at one or more locations along the receiving member.
- 1        3. The attachment system of Claim 2, wherein the base is adapted  
2 to move in relation to the receiving member.
- 1        4. The attachment system of Claim 2, wherein the base is adapted  
2 to be substantially non-movable in relation to the receiving member.
- 1        5. The attachment system of Claim 4, wherein the base includes a  
2 friction device engageable with the receiving member to substantially limit  
3 movement of the base in relation to the receiving member.
- 1        6. The attachment system of Claim 4, wherein the base includes a  
2 positioning device engageable with the receiving member to substantially  
3 prevent movement of the base in relation to the receiving member.
- 1        7. The attachment system of Claim 1, further comprising an article  
2 interface device receivable in the base, the article interface device adapted to  
3 receive one of a group of articles.
- 1        8. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the retention device  
2 includes a spring-biased catch adapted to retain the article.

1        9.    The attachment system of Claim 8, wherein the retention device  
2    includes a release device having an actuation member in operable  
3    engagement with the catch to release the article.

1        10.   The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the article interface  
2    device is a bracket adapted to interchangeably couple with one of a group of  
3    articles.

1        11.   The attachment system of Claim 10, wherein the articles are  
2    taken from the group consisting of a storage compartment, a hanger, a  
3    bracket, a fixture, a support member, a cargo storage shelf, an adaptable  
4    consumer product, a commercial-use article, and a business-related article.

1        12.   The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the base further  
2    comprises a safety interlock adapted to prevent uncoupling the base from the  
3    receiving member when the article is coupled to the base.

1        13.   The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the attachment  
2    device includes a lever and fulcrum mechanism.

1        14.   The attachment system of Claim 1 wherein the attachment  
2    device includes a push button.

1        15.   The attachment system of Claim 1 wherein the attachment  
2    device includes a slide mechanism.

1        16.   The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the attachment  
2    device includes a clasp.

1        17.   The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the attachment  
2    device includes a spring-biased hinge.

1        18.   The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the attachment  
2    device includes a threaded fastener.

1        19. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the attachment  
2 device includes a rotatable lever.

1        20. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the base includes  
2 an electrically conductive path adapted to provide a utility interface between  
3 the receiving member and the article.

1        21. The attachment system of Claim 1, wherein the receiving device  
2 is an elongated track member mountable to one or more of a headliner, floor,  
3 cargo door or interior trim component of the vehicle.

1        22. An article attachment system for a vehicle, comprising:  
2            means for coupling a base to one or more elongated members  
3 in the interior of a vehicle; and  
4            means for coupling one or more articles to the base.

1        23. The article attachment system of Claim 22, wherein the means  
2 for coupling the base is accomplished without using tools.

1        24. The article attachment system of Claim 22, further comprising  
2 means for preventing sliding motion of the base when the article is coupled to  
3 the base.

1        25. The article attachment system of Claim 22, further comprising,  
2 means for preventing disengagement of the base from the elongated member  
3 when the article is coupled to the base.

1        26. A kit for an article attachment system in a vehicle having one or  
2 more elongated members coupled to an interior portion of the vehicle, the kit  
3 comprising:

4            a base portion adapted to be coupled to the elongated member;  
5            an attachment device adapted to couple the base to the  
6 elongated member; and  
7            a retention device adapted to couple an article to the base.

1        27. The kit of Claim 26, further comprising an interlock adapted to  
2 prevent uncoupling the article from the base when the base is coupled to the  
3 elongated member.

1        28. The kit of Claim 26, wherein a portion of the base is electrically  
2 conductive.

1        29. The kit of Claim 26, further comprising an article interface device  
2 receivable in the base and adapted to couple to the article.

1        30. The kit of Claim 26, further comprising a positioning device  
2 adapted to substantially limit movement of the base relative to the elongated  
3 member.

1        31. The kit of Claim 26, wherein the retention device includes a latch  
2 adapted to retain the article.

1        32. The kit of Claim 26, wherein the retention device includes a  
2 release device adapted to release the article.

1        33. A method of mounting an article on a vehicle having one or  
2 more receiving members, comprising:  
3                coupling a base to the receiving member by engaging an  
4 attachment device with the receiving member;  
5                coupling the article to the base by engaging a retention device  
6 on the base; and  
7                providing an interlock to prevent removal of the base from the  
8 receiving member when the article is coupled to the base.

1        34. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of coupling  
2 an article interface device to the base.

1        35. The method of Claim 34, wherein the article is coupled to the  
2 article interface device.

1       36. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of  
2 transmitting utilities through the base to the article.

1       37. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of limiting  
2 the movement of the base relative to the receiving member.

1       38. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of removing  
2 the article from the base by actuating a release device on the retention  
3 member.

1       39. A universal mounting adapter for interchangeably attaching  
2 articles to a receiving member, comprising:

3           a base adapted to couple to the receiving member;  
4           the base having a selectively deployable attachment device adapted to  
5 engage a portion of the receiving member and maintain the base operably  
6 coupled to the receiving member;  
7           an article interface adapted to couple an article to the base; and  
8           a retention device communicating with the article interface and the  
9 base.

1       40. The universal mounting adapter of Claim 39, wherein the  
2 receiving member is an elongated rail coupled to an interior portion of a  
3 vehicle.

1       41. The universal mounting adapter of Claim 39, wherein the  
2 retention device includes a spring-biased catch member for selectively holding  
3 the article to the base and selectively releasing the article from the base.

1       42. The universal mounting adapter of Claim 39, wherein the  
2 retention device includes a manual actuator operably engaging the catch  
3 member.

1       43. The universal mounting actuator of Claim 39, further comprising  
2       an interlock device adapted to maintain the base in a coupled relationship with  
3       the receiving member when the article is coupled to the base.

1       44. The universal mounting adapter of Claim 39, wherein the articles  
2       are taken from the group consisting of a storage compartment, a hanger, a  
3       bracket, a fixture, an adaptable consumer product, a commercial-use device,  
4       an industrial product, and a business-related article.

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